



CONGRESSWOMAN JANE HARMAN
36TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

May 30, 2003

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

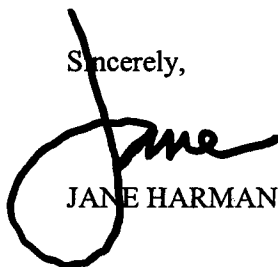
I am writing to request a firm date by which you will schedule a vote on the California Public Utilities Commission's contamination petition and to urge you to act as soon as possible on this issue. The California PUC is scheduled to vote on June 5 to decide whether to split the 310 area code, after which the contamination petition could become a moot point for my constituents.

As you know, the number exhaust crisis in California and around the country has been exacerbated by the proliferation of carriers who each check out separate blocks of numbers and, depending on their subscriber growth, may not actually use those numbers. Raising the contamination percentage from 10% to 25% would significantly increase the amount of phone numbers that would be "pooled" between carriers and thus used more efficiently. In my district alone, raising the contamination threshold would free up about 260,000 new numbers, which could help us avoid an area code split for the foreseeable future.

The issue has been before the FCC for nine months now and time is about to run out for my South Bay constituents. Area code splits are a serious burden for the small businesses in my district that will be forced to reconnect with their customers and undertake the expense of new advertising, signage, stationery and other materials. They are also a hardship for many seniors who rely on their telephone as a lifeline to their family, friends and loved ones.

Your staff has informed me that they are handling this petition on an expedited basis and I appreciate that. For the CPUC to make an informed decision, they need all the relevant information. I look forward to hearing from you about a specific date in the near future when this petition will be decided.

Sincerely,


JANE HARMAN

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